

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (previously presented)

In combination:

a. a brass wind musical instrument made of a selected metallic material and having a first color; and

b. a mouthpiece removably insertable into the instrument and made solely from a polycarbonate material and a selected colorant material, so that the mouthpiece exhibits the color of the selected colorant material and wherein the first color is brass, gold, or silver color, and wherein the polycarbonate material and the selected colorant material cooperate to render the mouthpiece a color that is neither brass, gold, nor silver color, so that the mouthpiece color contrasts with the first color.

Claim 9 (original)

The combination of claim 8 wherein the polycarbonate material and the colorant material cooperate to render the mouthpiece opaque.

Claim 10 (original)

The combination of claim 8 wherein the polycarbonate material and the colorant material cooperate to render the mouthpiece transparent.

Claims 11 - 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (previously presented)

A method of manufacturing a complete mouthpiece for a brass wind musical instrument comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a quantity of a selected polymer;
- b. mixing a quantity of a colorant having a first color into the polymer material;
- c. heating the mixed polymer and colorant to a liquid state;
- d. injecting the mixed liquid polymer and colorant into molds having a cavity of substantially the size and shape of a mouthpiece;
- e. cooling the mixed liquid polymer and colorant to a solid state; and
- f. removing the mouthpiece from the molds and thereby obtaining a polymer mouthpiece that exhibits the first color,

wherein the step of mixing a quantity of a colorant comprises the step of mixing a quantity of a colorant having a first color that is not brass, gold, or silver.

Claim 20 (original)

The method of claim 19 comprising the further steps of:

- a. providing a brass wind musical instrument having a brass, gold, or silver color; and
- b. inserting the mouthpiece into the musical instrument and thereby presenting contrasting colors between the musical instrument and the mouthpiece.

Claims 21 - 30 (cancelled)

Claim 31 (original)

A polymer musical instrument mouthpiece bounded by a first outer periphery and a first aperture that extend between a rim face and a shank end and that each have a first predetermined size and shape, the mouthpiece being fabricated by molding a mixture of polymer material and a selected colorant material into a blank having a second outer periphery and a second aperture each having a second predetermined size and shape, and by performing a primary machining operation on the blank second outer periphery and second aperture to produce the first outer periphery and the first aperture each of the first predetermined size and shape.

Claim 32 (original)

The polymer musical instrument mouthpiece of claim 31 wherein the polymer material and the colorant material cooperate to render the mouthpiece opaque.

Claim 33 (original)

The polymer musical instrument mouthpiece of claim 31 wherein the polymer material and the colorant material cooperate to render the mouthpiece transparent.

Claim 34 (original)

The polymer musical instrument mouthpiece of claim 31 wherein the mouthpiece is fabricated by machining the blank with single point tooling to have the outer periphery and aperture of the predetermined size and shape.

Claims 35 - 47 (cancelled)

Claim 48 (previously presented)

A method of manufacturing a mouthpiece for a brass wind musical instrument comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a selected mouthpiece made from a metal material;

b. performing computer coordinate measurements on the metal mouthpiece to quantitatively determine the size and shape thereof;

c. molding a mixture of a polymer material and a selected colorant into a blank;

d. performing a primary machining operation on the blank and producing a mouthpiece of the same shape and size from the blank as the selected metal mouthpiece, so that the mouthpiece machined from the polymer blank is a custom made mouthpiece that is identical in shape and size to the selected metal mouthpiece,

wherein the step of molding a mixture of a polymer material and a selected colorant into a blank comprises the step of molding a colorant that is neither brass, gold, nor silver into the blank.

Claim 49 (original)

The method claim 48 comprising the further steps of:

a. providing a brass wind musical instrument having a brass, gold, or silver color; and

b. inserting the mouthpiece into the musical instrument and thereby presenting contrasting colors between the musical instrument and the mouthpiece.

Claims 50 - 62 (cancelled)